MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (PROF. M. KAMSON): (a) Planning Commission has approved an outlay of Rs. 202 crores in 1990-91, Rs. 230 crores in 1991-92 but actual allocation was only Rs. 219.50 crores due to 5% economy cut, Rs. 230 crores in 1992-93 Rs. 265 crores in 1993-94 and Rs. 307 crores in 1994-95 to North Eastern Council.

(b) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Express Highways in Maharashtra

2500. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to provide Express Highways in the State of Maharashtra in view of the strategic location in the industrial map of the country; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI M. RAJASEKARA MURTHY): (a) and (b) It is proposed to conduct feasibility studies for construction of Express Highways (Super National Highways) in the country including those in the State of Maharashtra on Build, Operate and Transfer basis. The actual construction will depend on the viability as established by the feasibility studies.

Cleaning Industrial waste from Ganga River

2501. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: SHRI JANARDAN YADAV: SHRI NAGMANI:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the large scale disposal of industrial wastes in Ganga river, Government have any plan to clean the water of river Ganga and dispose of the wastes in the Bay of Cambay by pipeline;

(b) if so, by when the said plan will be implemented and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government have taken any steps to stop the inflow of industrial and chemical polluted water into the said river?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) and (b): No, Sir. The Government have no plans to dispose the industrial wastes in the Bay of Cambay by pipeline as the industrial units are required to treat their wastes inhouse to the prescribed standards before discharge into river.

(c) The West Bengal Pollution Control Board regularly monitors the quality of discharged effluents by the major industrial units along the river Ganga. As a result most of these units have set up effluent treatment plants and meet the prescribed standards. Certain abberations sometimes occur for which corrective action is taken.

Import of Crude Oil from Kuwait

2502. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to import Crude Oil from Kuwait; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and agreement proposed to be made in this regard stating the total expenditure of foreign exchange if required?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) and (b) Indian Oil Corporation has entered into a term contract with M/s. Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC), Kuwait for import of 4.5 MMT of crude oil during 1995-96 at official selling prices declared on month to month basis. The prices payable are market related. The estimated value of the above import is likely to be US $516.65 million.